

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on December 3, 2007, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire March 3, 2008. A two month extension, extending the period of response until May 3, 2008, is submitted herewith.

Claims 1-40 and 66-76 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-18, 23-40 and 66-72 are stand rejected for the reasons set forth below, Claims 4, 5, 9, and 19-22 are objected to, and Claims 73-76 are allowed.

In the current paper, Claims 4, 9-14, and 19-22 are amended, Claims 1-3, 6-8, 15-18, 23-40 and 66-72 are canceled. No new matter is entered. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Okaya (U.S. Patent No. 5,625,534), and Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Harrari (U.S. Pub. App. No. 2007/0016704).

Claims 1-3 are canceled herein, thereby obviating these rejections. Therefore, Applicants' respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 102.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Rejections Over Okaya (alone)

Claims 6-8, 10-18, 23-24 and 26-29 are rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Okaya.

Claims 6-8, 15-18, 23-24 and 26-29 are canceled, thereby obviating the rejections directed to these claims.

Claims 10-14 are amended to depend from Claim 9, which is indicated as being allowable, thus placing these claims in condition for allowance. No new matter is entered.

Rejections Over Harrari (alone)

Claims 6, 12-17 and 23-25 are rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Harrari.

Claims 6, 15-17, and 23-25 are canceled, thereby obviating the rejections directed to these claims.

Claims 12-14 are amended to depend from Claim 9, which is indicated as being allowable, thus placing these claims in condition for allowance. No new matter is entered.

Rejections Over Okaya in view of Bloodworth

Claims 6-8, 10-18, 23-24 and 26-29 are rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Okaya in view of Bloodworth (USP 4,271,351).

Claim 18 is canceled, thereby obviating the rejection directed to this claim.

Rejections Over Okaya in view of West

Claims 29-36 and 72 are rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Okaya in view of West (USP 5,714,474).

Claims 29-36 and 72 are canceled, thereby obviating the rejection directed to these claims.

Rejections Over Okaya in view of Kenneth

Claims 37-40 are rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Okaya in view of Kenneth.

Claims 37-40 are canceled, thereby obviating the rejection directed to these claims.

Rejections Over Okaya in view of Hasabe

Claims 37-40 are rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Okaya in view of Hasabe.

Claims 37-40 are canceled, thereby obviating the rejection directed to these claims.

Rejections Over Okaya in view of Sedley

Claims 34-26, 71 and 72 are rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Okaya in view of Sedley.

Claims 34-26, 71 and 72 are canceled, thereby obviating the rejection directed to these claims.

For the above reasons, Applicants' respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 103.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims Objected to

Claims 4, 5, 9, and 19-22 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as allowable.

Claim 4 is amended herein to include the subject matter of Claim 1, thereby placing Claim 4 in condition for allowance. No new matter is entered. Claim 5 depends from

Claim 4 and is therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 is amended herein to include the subject matter of Claim 6, thereby placing Claim 9 in condition for allowance. No new matter is entered. Claims 10-14 are amended to depend from Claim 9, and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 19-22 are amended herein to include the subject matter of Claims 15, 16 and 17, thereby placing Claims 19-22 in condition for allowance. No new matter is entered.

Allowed Claims

Claims 73-76 are allowed in paragraph 13 of the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicants believe Claims 4, 5, 9-14, 19-22 and 73-76 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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